

The Season in Track Athletics

WITH THE ATHLETES ON THE TRACK.

By Harry S. Cornish.

REFERRING to the athletic outlook, I think matters are in better shape than previously, and there seems to be more interest in track and field athletics. This is particularly noticeable in the number of entries seen at the different games. The number of games given is on the increase, and altogether the sport seems to be enjoying a great boom. One of the most

enthusiasm have taken advantage of the facilities offered by the various clubs.

The New York grounds at Travers Island are not as yet overrun by the representatives of the winged foot. The starting of the training table this week will undoubtedly prove an attraction to the speedy sprinters and jumpers of the New Yorks. Trainer Mike Murphy, whose fame in the gentle art of getting men into prime condition is world-wide, will have charge of the track team. This alone is a guarantee that the New Yorks will hold up to the standard set when they played havoc with the Englishmen last season. Murphy is staying at the island and will remain there until after the championship games.

Two or three enthusiasts, including the Irishman, John Flanagan, who left his Celtic friends to come over here and throw weights for the club, have been doing hard

work at the intercollegiate games, is said to be in trim to repeat that performance. Should Wefers be running in his best form we may have a chance to see that long-tailed record of nine and three-fifths seconds. Maybury and Wefers now hold jointly the world's record of nine and four-fifths seconds, Maybury's time, made at the Western Intercollegiate meet in Chicago, having been accepted. As the Westerner is known to be a very consistent performer, Wefers will take no chances. His defeat, should it occur, will be due to the fact that he had the misfortune to run up against a faster man.

Flanagan, the Irish Hercules, will attempt to break his own world's record of 150 feet 8 inches with the sixteen-pound hammer, made at the New Jersey Decoration Day games. Flanagan's constant practice at Travers Island during the past two

appearances at the American championships.

The training quarters of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club at Columbia Oval have been in running order since three weeks ago. The training table is presided over by a first-class cook, and about thirty or forty athletes have taken up the chance to train under the expert supervision of Mr. George Salmon, and incidentally to deplete the larder after each day's exercise. Mr. Harry S. Cornish, the well-known athlete, who has charge of affairs in that line at the K. A. C., evolved the idea several weeks ago of having a competition at the grounds every Thursday afternoon. The winners of the most points in the series will receive fine prizes. This arrangement brings out a large number of men every week, some of whom might otherwise have been taking life easy at the beach or some other Summer resort.

gory, and scores of others are loosening up their muscles in preparation for the approaching Knickerbocker-New Jersey A. C. games, July 29.

Across the water at Bergen Point the N. J. A. C., under the energetic supervision of "Ernie" Hjertberg, is training hard for the coming event. The New Jerseys are going to make a great day of that 29th of July. Besides the track events there will be rowing and swimming races to furnish the spectators with amusement for the afternoon. In regard to the dual event, the two clubs are so evenly matched that the loss of a man from either team might mean the loss of the day. The New Jerseys number in their ranks such noted athletes as Marvel, the sensational quarter and half mile runner, who made a reputation for Flingy High School in the interscholastic games; Sulzer, the sprinter (who, by the way, is captain of the team); Rogers, formerly of Princeton, the great hurdler and broad jumper; Cosgrove, who came second to Clarke in the American all-round championships; Lonie Liebgold, of pedestrian fame, who will have things all to himself in the walking line, now that Ladd is ill and unable to compete; Smith and Hamilton, to clear great heights with the vaulting pole, and B. C. Davis to dally with the heavy weights. "Ernie" Hjertberg, in his new capacity as professional trainer, brings to bear all the knowledge gained during his many years of active competition in the amateur ranks, and will have all of these men in first-class condition, as well as others too numerous to be discussed in this limited space.

Taken all around, the next month will see a whirl of athletic enthusiasm seldom excelled here in New York, where the competition is always keenest and interest always rife.

TENNIS IS BOOMING.

Three English Cracks Compete in the Principal Tournaments of the Season.

The eyes of all the tennis world will be turned toward the Longwood tournament on Tuesday next, that is generally conceded one of the greatest events of the tennis season. An extra attraction will be furnished this year by the appearance of three of England's strongest players, who are seeking fresh laurels on this side of the water.

The tournament is for the Longwood Challenge Bowl, a trophy that has been up for competition since 1891, and that must be won three times (not necessarily consecutively) to make it the property of an individual.

In 1891 E. L. Hall was the first man to have his name engraved on its side, the two following years F. H. Hovey won the honor, and with only one more win necessary, in 1894, W. A. Larned saved the cup by defeating Hovey in a hard-fought match. In 1895 Larned's name again went on the bowl, successfully defending it against Hovey, the challenger.

Last year it was "Bob" Wrenn's place to save the cup. Hovey again made a hard fight, and all but won it, being only disposed of by Wrenn in the final match. Larned, being in Europe, the championship went to Wrenn by default. Considering all this, it is no wonder then that the coming event bears such interest to the tennis enthusiasts.

In connection with the singles the Eastern championship doubles will be played, and it is probable that Mahoney and Eaves, the Englishmen, will also take part in this. Early in the Spring Clarence Hobart said that he and Hovey expected to play, but at present there is some doubt about it. With them out Larned and Wrenn, who play together this year for

the first time, will be the only team that would stand between the Englishmen and victory, and as they have had very little practice together their individual excellence may be marred by poor team work.

The winner of this event must meet the Western champions at Newport for the right to challenge the Neel brothers for the United States championship, but as the Neel brothers have expressed the intention not to defend, the winner of the finals will take the championship by default.

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ments with the Englishmen without giving the experts a chance to get a line on his play and without the experience of any tournaments this year. Last year's form is hardly a thing to be depended on, but the general consistency of his play stands in his favor, and he is never beaten till the last stroke is played.

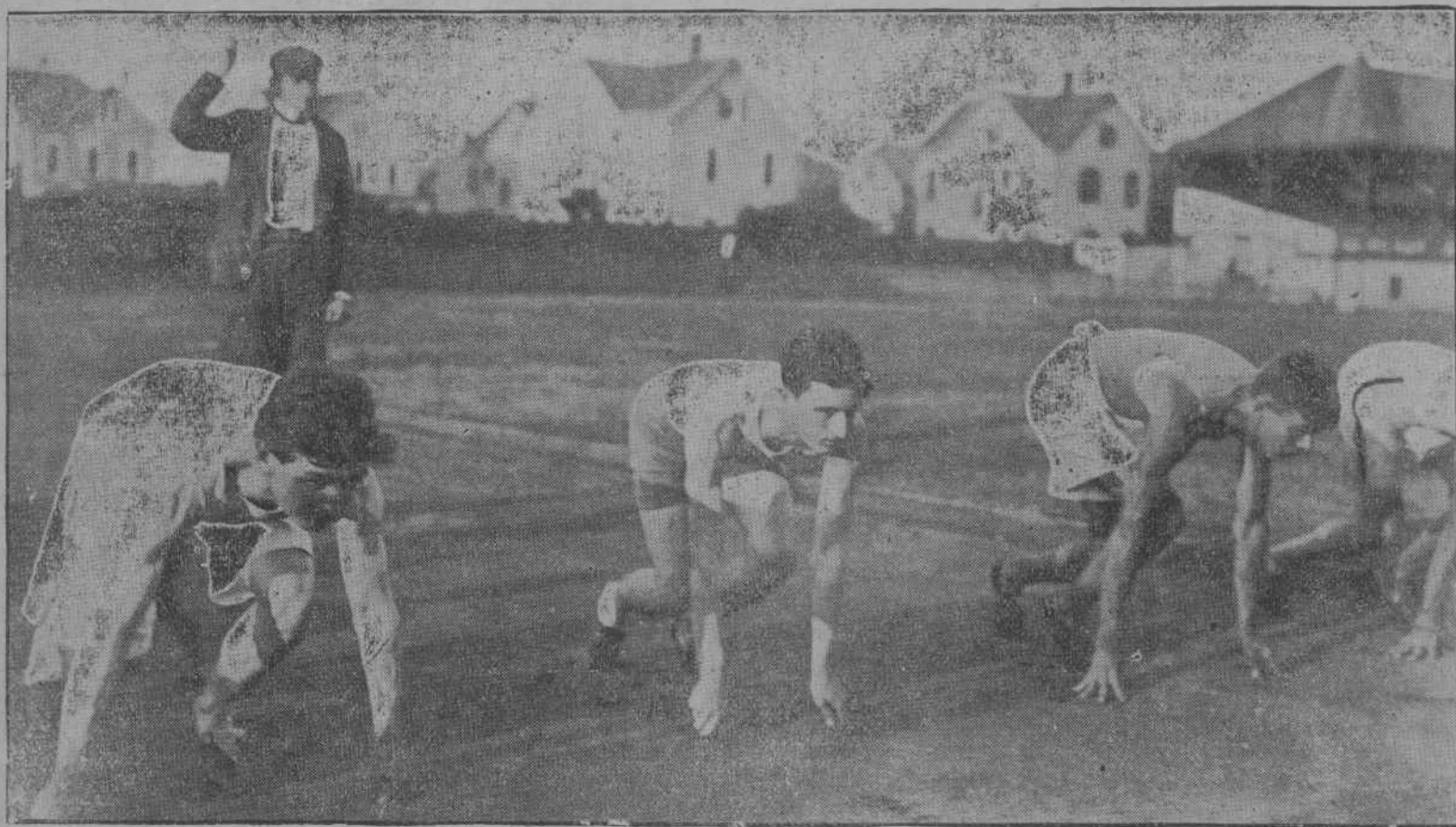
In the women's championship singles, that were decided at the same time, Miss Juliette Atkinson, a member of the Ladies' Club of Staten Island and also the Kings County Tennis Club of Brooklyn, suc-

RAISING A DELICATE POINT.



George P. Smith, interscholastic champion 12-pound shot putter, feels the importance in athletic circles of the forthcoming match with the Knickerbocker's expert, and was photographed at a moment when he was impressing upon some of his New Jersey associates the absolute necessity of the seven foot circle in which he is to stand being exact in its proportions.

THE START FOR THE QUARTER.



Four of the very fast 440-yard runners of the New Jersey Athletic Club, as they were photographed on the scratch for a trial run at Bergen Point. The starter is the well-known Ernie Hjertberg. To the right of the group is Marvel, who at the half-mile is a marvel, and of whom wonders are expected in the shorter distance. All of these sprinters have done the quarter in less than 503.

Interesting meetings of the season should be the dual meet between the New Jersey and Knickerbocker Athletic clubs. Club rivalry has proven in the past to be the life of athletic sport, and this coming set of games is no exception to the previous rule. It will surely help both clubs, as it will bring into active competition many of the athletes who would not otherwise take part at this season.

It is too bad that we have not a larger number of good tracks around New York, as many an athlete is practically barred from attempting to compete on some of the so-called tracks. For this reason the various clubs ought to cut down their "sprint" races to the distance (no matter how small it may be), which they can get out of their track, and still have room for the men to finish. Also, no race "around a turn" should be given less than 600 yards on most of the tracks. The good men will not take the chances by running in middle distances on small tracks. The prize question seems to have caused much comment this season. Several games have been given where the athletes have complained of the prizes. On the face of it, some may say this is not true sport, but it should be remembered that athletes are required to pay 50 cents entrance fees, pay their expenses to games, give up their time for training, and still stand their chances of winning even a place. It would be well to make a rule compelling every club to state the actual value of their prizes on their entry blanks, and above all, compel them to state on the blank "the order in which the events will be contested." The reason for this latter is that athletes are at present compelled to enter in three or even four events, so that they may have an opportunity to compete in more than one, as there is no telling just how the events will come. It compels the athlete to pay out entrance fees unnecessarily. Fewer events and prizes of good value will increase the number of competitors. The price of admission should be reduced as well, and I would like to see those who have charge of the National Championships on Manhattan Field on August 28, try an admission fee of 25 cents to the bleachers. No attempt has ever been made to interest the real public, and it is time to begin if we intend to have track and field athletics live.

With the metropolitan championships less than two weeks away and the annual championship games of the Amateur Athletic Union in the near future, athletic sports are booming. That the intercollegiate games did not wind up the athletic season of 1897 is quite evident to any one who visits the training grounds of any prominent New York club. The winged foot of the New Yorkers is busy throwing cinders at Travers Island. Columbia Oval is the scene of daily conflict between the wearers of the spiked shoe. Over on the Jersey side Bergen Point, the stamping ground of the New Jersey Athletic Club, is thronged with devotees of out-of-door sport. The city is being suddenly deserted by those who have arrived at a due appreciation of the joys of the urban cinder path. Not only have all of the crack athletes "taken to the Summer training grounds," but hundreds of others of less ability but equal

work for months past and are in the pink of condition at the present moment. Later arrivals, many of whom are college men making good use of their vacations, will have a shorter time to get into shape, but the atmosphere of Travers Island is notably conducive to that process, and no doubt every man will be trained to the day for both the big competitions. Gaby of Yale (the intercollegiate champion over the hurdles), is one of the New York's latest acquisitions. He is sanguine of breaking his own record over the sticks in the coming championship games. He will need to be in shape, as Richards, the Western crack, is coming here to dispute the championship title with him. Wefers will not have the easy time that he has enjoyed of late. Maybury, of Wisconsin, is after his scalp in the hundred-yard dash, and Colfelt, the Princeton crack, who defeated

month has put him into the condition of his life. His daily practice throws are often better than the record, and personally he has no doubt that August 28 will see new figures set for the sixteen-pound missile. James A. Mitchell, formerly pet of the New Yorks, but now of the Pastime A. C., is in hard training for the first time in many seasons. His 280 pounds of brawn, muscle and avoirdupois has seen a remarkable reduction of late. During the past month or two, in fact, since he succumbed to the prowess of Mr. Flanagan, of Kilbrady-Kilmallock, Limerick, Ireland, who flitted with the weight to the tune of a new world's record, Mitchell has been working hard, and approaching his old form. Whether or not he can regain the old skill and nervous strength that carried him through some hundreds of contests remains to be seen when he makes his ap-

pearance at the American championships. The training quarters of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club at Columbia Oval have been in running order since three weeks ago. The training table is presided over by a first-class cook, and about thirty or forty athletes have taken up the chance to train under the expert supervision of Mr. George Salmon, and incidentally to deplete the larder after each day's exercise. Mr. Harry S. Cornish, the well-known athlete, who has charge of affairs in that line at the K. A. C., evolved the idea several weeks ago of having a competition at the grounds every Thursday afternoon. The winners of the most points in the series will receive fine prizes. This arrangement brings out a large number of men every week, some of whom might otherwise have been taking life easy at the beach or some other Summer resort.

THE CREAM OF THE N. J. A. C. TRACK TEAM.



This photograph of the fifteen members of the New Jersey Athletic Club's track team, who are in active training at Bergen Point was taken at the close of the "closed" or trial games, especially for the Journal. There are other N. J. A. C. men to take part in the games with the Knickerbockers, but the aggregation of sprinters, hurdlers, jumpers, shot putters and vaulters are out for records.

men, all details have finally been arranged. The invading party will consist of three men instead of four, as was originally planned, and are H. S. Mahoney, ex-champion of England, who lost his title this year to young Doherty after a hard match, but who is considered one of England's strongest players; Dr. W. V. Eaves, England's greatest "volleyer," ranking in the first four, and a consistent clever player, and H. A. Nesbit, a strong, brilliant player, though hardly up to the highest standard.

In the all-England championship last year it took Mahoney five hard sets to dispose of Nesbit in the semi-final round, which alone should mark him as a player of great ability. These three men will give our crack players all they care to handle, but with Wrenn, Larned, Hovey and Stevens American interests will be well looked after. By the coming of the Englishmen a great boom is given to tennis, that at one time outranked all other sports in popularity, and too much credit cannot be given to the United States Lawn Tennis Association in thus securing their attendance, and bringing together the greatest exponents of the game and making an international event.

The Canadian championship tennis tournament has been the all-absorbing topic for the last few days. A new star has risen in the tennis firmament, and one that gives promise of shining very brightly, in the person of young Leo Ware, the Harvard expert. His experience in the Middle States championship tournament greatly improved his play, and in Canada he was much in evidence in all the events, winning the championship singles, the handicap singles, and, with Sheldon, of Yale, the championship doubles—an honor that rarely comes to one man.

He played his way through a tournament of strong players, including Fischer, Whitman, Sheldon, Avery, Dodge, Thayer, Pincke and many others. He met and defeated Whitman, the intercollegiate champion, and Fischer, the New York expert, both of whom rank him in the official classification. His first set with Fischer in the finals was hard and closely contested, bringing out long, brilliant rallies and tennis of a high order, when the set finally went to Ware, 7-5. The enthusiastic onlookers expected to see a hard fight to the end, but a surprise was furnished by his taking the next two sets easily 6-1, 6-2, winning the all-comers' tournament and taking the championship by default from "Bob" Wrenn, who, though expecting to defend his title, was unable to leave New York at the last minute.

A match between them would have furnished some fine tennis, for although Wrenn outclasses Ware on form, nevertheless the Harvard man was playing the game of his life and would certainly have given the champion a hard fight. As it is, Wrenn will go into the coming tourna-

ment with the Englishmen without giving the experts a chance to get a line on his play and without the experience of any tournaments this year. Last year's form is hardly a thing to be depended on, but the general consistency of his play stands in his favor, and he is never beaten till the last stroke is played.

In the women's championship singles, that were decided at the same time, Miss Juliette Atkinson, a member of the Ladies' Club of Staten Island and also the Kings County Tennis Club of Brooklyn, suc-

cessfully defended the title of champion won last year. She defeated Miss Davis, the challenger, easily, and this clever lady player has now reached the zenith of her tennis career, having no new fields to conquer, holding as she does the championship of America and Canada. A meeting between Miss Cooper, who won the woman's championship of all England last year, and our brilliant little representative would furnish a fine exhibition.

Of the tennis clubs in the vicinity of New York, a few words would seem appropiate at this time about the Morrisstown Field Club, which has just brought to a successful conclusion its first open tournament. The club was organized in 1890, and was the natural outgrowth of the lawn tennis club that started in 1880. The grounds are situated in the heart of the pretty New Jersey town, the clubhouse piazza furnishing a beautiful view of the green hills to the west. It is a favorite meeting place for the members in the early evening, or informal afternoon teas are very popular, combining with the athletic a social branch of athletic and outdoor sport cultivated, but at this time of the year tennis is receiving the greatest amount of attention, due partly to the increased interest taken in tennis this year, and partly because of the open tournament that the club held for the first time this year. The intention is to make this an annual event and by another year to have it on a far more prominent place in the list of open tournaments, than it could do year.

As it was, it drew an entry list of twenty strong players and furnished tennis of a high order; the best play was furnished by Cragin and Forbes, and they finally met in the final round, Forbes, of the home club, proving the strongest and winning in three straight sets. Two of the closest matches were between Cragin and Griffith and Ruggles and Smith. In the former Cragin won, 6-4, 10-8, but only after a hard fight. The match abounded in heroic rallies, clever playing and generally brilliant play. In the Smith-Ruggles contest Smith took both sets, 8-6, the score alone proving how evenly they were matched. From a spectator's standpoint they were truly exciting and brought out rounds of applause.

With a membership of 450 little else need be said of the prosperity of the club, and with well-appointed baseball grounds, golf links and tennis courts all have an opportunity to indulge in their favorite sport. Among the prominent members of the club are President Elliot Smith, Vice-President John J. Waterbury, Secretary R. B. Duyckinck, Treasurer R. B. Lyon as well as L. K. Mills, J. D. Forbes, W. D. Vanderpool, Cornelius Follows, Jr., John B. Brinley and W. T. V. Sabin.